



What's happening in the Archdiocese of Grouard-McLennan

Sept. 3 to Sept. 15th, 2026

Priest Retreat at Providence Renewal Centre, Edmonton

From Sept. 7 to 11, the clergy of the archdiocese gathered for their annual clergy retreat. Archbishop Duval C.Ss.R. was the retreat leader with the focus being 'pastors having the smell of the sheep', a phrase made famous by Pope Francis in a homily early in his pontificate.

The time together was a great opportunity for prayer, reflection and fellowship. Of the clergy absent, two were on vacation out of country, two others chose to stay back in their parishes, and three permanent deacons were also not able to attend. Joining the clergy, Paul and RJ, pastoral workers in the diocese also were part of the fraternal group of men.



Pictures from the Retreat:



Welcome to the Archdiocese

Fr. Bernard Gauthier, C.Ss.R. arrived at St. Joseph Church, Grande Prairie mid-August to assume the position of pastor for a one-year mandate. He was previously pastor at Elsipogtog First Nation in New Brunswick. Joining Fr. Gauthier as associate is Fr. Thomas Wollis, recently ordained in the archdiocese. We wish both of them a blessed and wonderful year in serving the parish in Grande Prairie.

Returning to the archdiocese after two years of ministry in Windsor, Ontario, we welcome Fr. Bernard Akum. Fr. Bernard had served in Grouard and missions for a few years. Since his return, he has been busy replacing priests who have been on their vacation. Welcome back Father Akum.

Arriving September 5th in Edmonton and able to join with the clergy of the archdiocese on retreat, we welcome Fr. Matthias Agboso from the diocese of Enugu, Nigeria. For the first few weeks, Father will be in Grande Prairie for an enculturation program before being assigned to a parish or mission in the archdiocese. May God bless these men as they begin their new assignments.



Fr. Matthias Agboso

New staff at the chancery

We would like to welcome to the chancery staff Catalina Lara San Martin and Cyana Aboyne.

Catalina our new Communications Officer. She is originally from Chile, is married and is mother of two young sons. Cyana is our new Receptionist and Administrative Assistant. She is from the Philippines, is married and mother to one infant son.

Both started their duties at the start of September. We are happy to have them here.



Visit our website:





Upcoming events in the Archdiocese of Grouard-McLennan

Sept. 15th to Sept. 30th, 2026

Archdiocesan important meetings

As summer ends, the Archdiocese and some parishes will host a series of meetings and events aimed at providing direction, setting priorities, and planning for key issues and initiatives involving the clergy and staff.

- Sept. 19: Archdiocesan Pastoral Council - APC (Peace River)
- Sept. 20: Workshop on Liturgical Ministries (Holy Family Catholic Church, Grimshaw)
- Sept. 26: Diocesan CWL meeting (Our Lady of Perpetual Help (hall), Bezanson).



Further information:



WL presents...

Women.
Wine & the
Word
"Belonging"

Friday
September 25, 2026
7:00-9:30pm
(Doors open 6:30)

Join us for an evening of
prayer, reflection,
fellowship, catered
charcuterie, raffles and
refreshments (non-
alcoholic options too).
Please note: This is 18+
event.

Guest Speaker:
April Fogle

Tickets on sale on
Eventbrite
or from
St. Joseph Parish Office!

Tickets: \$35



Tranquille Hall
St. Joseph Church
10404 102 Street
Grande Prairie



Sign up here ↑



Remembering Cursillo
Mini Retreat

For anyone who has previously attended
a Cursillo weekend.

Saturday, September 26

9:00 am - noon

Tranquille Hall

St. Joseph Church, Grande Prairie

Please sign up to attend on our Facebook page:
Grouard McLennan Cursillo Movement

Sign up here:



FALL SUPPER
Friday, Sept. 25th
5-7:00 p.m.



By donation Under 12, FREE

St. Paul Church,
High Prairie

St. Paul's
(R.C.) Church

35 Anniversary of Msgr. Charles Lavoie

On September 20, 1991, Msgr. Charles was ordained to the priesthood for the diocese at the Cathedral in McLennan.

To celebrate this special milestone, the Chancery staff presented him with a card and a gift, and shared a cake in gratitude for his many years of faithful service.

Thank you Monsignor for your immense dedication and hard work in support of our priests, our churches, and parishioners.

May God continue to bless you abundantly in your ministry!

